GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2576
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008
FACILITIES TO AMARNATH PILGRIMS
Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan;Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government organizes Amarnath Pilgrimage;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the facilities being provided and the security concerns kept in account for the pilgrims;

(c) whether the Government proposes to grant subsidy to Amarnath Pilgrims;and

(d) if so,the details thereof alongwith the time by when it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) to (d): A Statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTRRED QUESTION NO. 2576 FOR 16.12.2008.

(a): Arrangements for pilgrimage to Amarnath are made by the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) and the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir.The Government of India assists State Government of Jammu and Kashmir in providing for security arrangements for the Yatra by way of deployment of additional security forces as per the requirement of the State Government.

(b): The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir provides facilities of health care,way side amenities and facilitate transport and porters to pilgrims besides arrangements for emergency evacuation in case of any untoward happening.As per the inputs provided by the State Government, Yatri Niwas has been constructed recently in Jammu to provide transit accommodation to the pilgrims at Jammu besides information regarding weather and route details leading to cave.Facilities for registration for the yatra are made throughout the country.Spot registration is also made.Shelter sheds and information counters are provided for guidance of the pilgrims.

As regards security arrangements,an extensive security grid is laid for the yatra which includes security for yatris right from their entry into the State of Jammu and Kashmir to Pahalgam; sanitization of the highway as well as trek to Amarnath Cave from Pahalgam and Baltal sides; security of camping sites and various locations and domination by army of the entire area surrounding the Holy Cave as well as the routes leading to it.Road opening are deployed on daily basis and quick response teams,bomb disposal squad and traffic cranes are deployed at different locations.Various forces deployed are also charged with the responsibility of disaster management and medical relief in the event of emergency.In addition to this territorial Police from various Police Stations is also made responsible for safety of pilgrims in their jurisdiction during the yatra period.

(c): No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(d): Does not arise in view of (c) above.